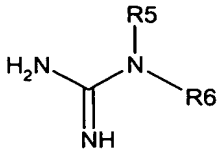
CLAIMS

1. A process wherein the compound of formula (C):



(C)

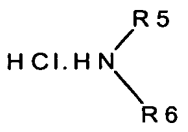
wherein;

R^5 and R^6 taken together represent a 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-membered N-containing heterocyclic ring optionally containing at least one further heteroatom selected from N, O and S, the ring being optionally fused to a benzene ring or a 5- or 6- membered heterocyclic ring containing at least one heteroatom selected from N, O and S, the ring system as a whole being optionally substituted by one or more groups independently selected from OH, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halogen, $CONR^7R^8$, $SO_2NR^7R^8$, $(CH_2)_bNR^8R^9$ and $NHSO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), and when S is a member of the ring system, it may be substituted by 1 or 2 oxygen atoms;

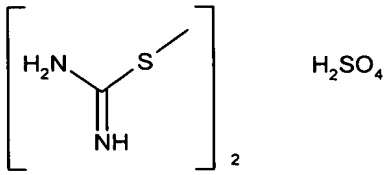
R^7 and R^8 independently represent H or C_{1-4}alkyl, or together with the N atom to which they are attached they may represent a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing at one heteroatom selected from N, O and S; and

b represents 0, 1, 2 or 3

is formed by reaction of a compound of formula (E) with a compound of formula (F):



(E)



(F)

2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^5 and R^6 together with the N atom to which they are attached represent a saturated 6-membered N-containing ring which is fused to an optionally substituted benzene or pyridine ring.

3. A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein R^5 and R^6 together with the N atom to which they are attached represent a tetrahydroisoquinoline ring system.

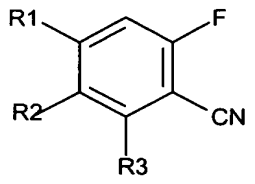
4. A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein R^5 and R^6 together with the N atom to which they are attached represent 5-methylsulfonylamino tetrahydroisoquinoline.

5. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of an aqueous base.

6. A process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the aqueous base is sodium hydroxide.

7. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (C) is *N*-(2-amidino-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-5-isoquinolyl)methanesulfonamide.

8. A process wherein the compound of formula (B):



(B)

wherein;

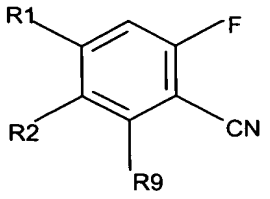
R^1 represents C_{1-4} alkoxy optionally substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

R^2 represents H or C_{1-6} alkoxy optionally substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

are as defined above; and

R^3 represents a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing at least one heteroatom selected from N, O and S, the ring being optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen , C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkyl and CF_3;

is formed by reaction of the compound of formula (D):



(D)

wherein;

R^1 to R^3 are as defined above; and

R^9 is a leaving group;

with a pyridine derivative.

9. A process as claimed in claim 8, wherein R^9 is iodine.

10. A process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the pyridine derivative is a pyridyl boronate.

11. A process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the reaction is carried out in a polar aprotic solvent.

12. A process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the polar aprotic solvent is dioxane.

13. A process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of a catalyst.

14. A process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the catalyst is a palladium (0) catalyst.

15. A process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the product is 6-fluoro-3,4-dimethoxy-2-(2-pyridyl)benzonitrile.